

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. to 7. CANCELLED

8. (NEW) A center conductor and insulator assembly comprising:

an insulator having a body including a shaft portion, a front portion, and an axial channel extending through the front portion and through the shaft portion;

the insulator generally cylindrical, with the front portion having a greater diameter than the shaft portion;

the axial channel centrally positioned through the generally cylindrical shape and adapted to receive a center conductor;

the shaft portion including a rear portion opposite the front portion, the axial channel within the rear portion including a taper which decreases in diameter from an outer end to an inner end, the taper axially aligned with the axial channel; and

a center conductor positioned within the axial channel of the insulator body, the center conductor including a front end and a rear end, the rear end positioned within the axial channel adjacent the smaller inner end of the taper, and the front end extending from the axial channel beyond the front portion.

9. (NEW) A center conductor insulator comprising:

a body including a shaft portion, a front portion, and an axial channel extending through the front portion and through the shaft portion;

the body generally cylindrical in shape, with the front portion defining a greater diameter than the shaft portion;

the front portion and the shaft portion generally ring shaped about the axial channel;

the shaft portion including a rear portion opposite the front portion, the axial channel within the rear portion including a taper which decreases in diameter from an outer end to an inner end, the taper axially aligned with the axial channel; and

the inner end of the taper defining a smaller diameter than the axial channel and a circular ledge extending partially into the axial channel proximate the inner end of the taper.

10. (NEW) The center conductor insulator of claim 9, wherein the body is a one-piece body.

11. (NEW) A front shell assembly for a transmission line connector comprising:

a front shell including a front end and a rear end, the rear end threaded for mounting to the transmission line connector;

an insulator having a central axial opening, a first end and a second end, the first end of the insulator mounted within the front shell and the second end of the insulator extending from the rear end of the front shell, the insulator including a taper providing access into the central axial opening through the second end of the insulator, the taper decreasing in diameter from an outer end to an inner end;

a center conductor having a first end and a second end mounted within the central axial opening of the insulator and electrically isolated from the front shell, the second end of the center conductor positioned within the central axial opening of the insulator and accessible from the second end of the insulator through the inner end of the taper, the first end of the center conductor extending from the first end of the insulator within the front end of the front shell.

12. (NEW) The front shell assembly of claim 11, wherein the front end of the front shell defines a tubular portion.

13. (NEW) The front shell assembly of claim 11, wherein the front end of the front shell defines a plurality of projecting fingers.

14. (NEW) The front shell assembly of claim 11, wherein the first end of the center conductor is a solid end.

15. (NEW) The front shell assembly of claim 11, wherein the first end of the center conductor includes an axial opening.

16. (NEW) The front shell assembly of claim 11, wherein the narrow end of the taper is smaller in diameter than the central axial opening and a ledge is formed within the central axial opening adjacent the narrow end of the taper, and the second end of the center conductor engages the ledge within the axial channel.

17. (NEW) The front shell assembly of claim 11, wherein the insulator is pressfit within the front shell.

18. (NEW) The front shell assembly of claim 11, wherein the insulator is a one-piece plastic insulator.